

## Corn Fields Recently Harvested Now Seeded with Winter Cover Crop Yellow Finn Potatoes Sorted and Bagged for Direct Farm Sales

### Field Crops

Brilliant fall colors were augmented with intermittent shades of brown on recently harvested corn fields, which have been disked and seeded with a winter cover crop. Winter wheat was in good condition, but moisture is needed to further the development. Potato growers were sorting and bagging Yellow Finn potatoes for direct farm sales. Christmas tree growers were preparing harvest roads. Grain corn, sweet corn, onion, and carrot harvest continued. Harvesting of potatoes and dry beans was nearly complete.

### Livestock

Dry conditions in western Washington have allowed dairy producers to harvest green chop and apply liquid manure to forage fields without getting equipment stuck. In Grant County, the fourth cutting of alfalfa was being cut. Range and pasture conditions were 11% very poor, 44% poor, 31% fair and 14% good.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Very cold temperatures in the upper 20's near the end of the week quickly brought the growing season for most annual vegetables and flowers to an end. Spring flowering bulb growers were planting the last of the tulip fields. Apple and grape harvest continued. U-Pick pumpkin fields were doing a brisk business.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.2

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	19	46	35	0
Subsoil	5	58	37	0
Irrigation Water	0	5	95	0
Hay & Roughage	0	9	91	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

#### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	92	90	91	91
Winter Wheat Emerged	72	65	75	76
Potatoes Harvested	85	78	73	77
Corn Harvested	11	5	8	12
Corn Silage Harvested	90	70	75	89
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	80	50	92	85

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	5	95	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	10	88	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** The rural landscape throughout the county continued to be a brilliant tapestry of color as big leaf maple, vine maple, and Oregon ash displayed their colorful fall foliage. The brilliant leaf colors were augmented with intermittent shades of brown on recently harvested corn fields, which have been disked and seeded with a winter cover crop. Fields of orange pumpkins completed the tapestry of fall color. Spring flowering bulb growers were planting the last of the tulip fields. Potato growers were sorting and bagging Yellow Finn potatoes for direct farm sales. Christmas tree growers were preparing harvest roads. Very cold temperatures in the upper 20's near the end of the week quickly brought the growing season for most annual vegetables and flowers to an end.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** Fall harvest benefitted from the dry weather. Pastures need additional rain to promote growth.

**Thurston:** Dry weather and cool nights continued to provide a bonus to ag producers who were racing to complete outside chores before fall rains begin. The dry conditions have allowed dairy producers to harvest green chop and apply liquid manure to forage fields without getting equipment stuck. Turfgrass growers were pleased that last week's rain resulted in lush green fields. Christmas tree growers continued to finish up cultural practices in preparation for harvest. Noble fir continued to be reported in short supply again this year. Some field cultivation took place on organic farms in preparation for sowing winter cover crops. U-Pick pumpkin farms were doing a brisk business.

## Central

**Benton:** The first killing frost occurred on October 12. Apple and grape harvest continued. Final irrigations were being applied.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were much colder. The weather was generally sunny with wind at times. Grain corn, sweet corn, and carrot harvest continued. Harvesting of potatoes and dry beans was nearly complete. Apples and grapes were being picked.

**Grant:** Soil fumigation for next year's potatoes and onions continued. Sweet corn and carrot harvest continued. Onion harvest was nearly complete. Apple harvest continued. The last of the fourth cutting of alfalfa was being cut slowly. The first killing frost was expected.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees above normal to 8 degrees below normal, with a low temperature of 23 degrees on October 13. No crop losses due to the freezing weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat was in good condition, but fall moisture will be needed to further the development.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Winter wheat seeding was nearly complete. Some producers were still preparing to reseed wheat. Winter wheat stands were good in some areas and spotty in other areas due to poor moisture conditions. Rain is needed for proper stand establishment. Rangeland was still in poor condition and rain is needed for

improvement.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat was in good condition, but additional moisture is needed.

**Whitman:** Winter wheat seeding was finishing up. The weather conditions have been cool and dry and precipitation is needed to help with emergence of newly seeded crops.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**October 15, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	31	60	49	-4	8	-8	0	0	0.08	-0.59	2	1.48	-1.65	47	12
Everett	37	58	50	-4	7	-13	0	0	0.13	-0.48	3	1.27	-1.97	39	13
Hoquiam	34	66	51	-5	15	-23	0	-1	0.00	-1.19	0	2.33	-3.01	44	11
Kelso	30	70	53	-2	28	-3	0	0	0.00	-0.73	0	1.22	-2.44	33	8
Olympia	28	63	50	-2	14	-2	0	0	0.02	-0.77	1	0.69	-2.95	19	10
Seattle-Tacoma	38	63	52	-3	21	-9	0	0	0.05	-0.55	2	0.81	-2.14	27	9
Shelton	28	66	50	-4	16	-9	0	0	0.00	-1.00	0	0.58	-3.84	13	4
Tacoma	30	64	51	-3	17	-7	0	0	0.07	-0.53	1	1.09	-1.91	36	10
Vancouver	34	71	54	1	33	6	0	0	0.00	-0.59	0	1.54	-1.54	50	8
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	23	71	50	0	22	11	2	2	0.00	-0.10	0	0.10	-0.56	15	3
Omak	17	77	49	0	19	9	1	1	0.00	-0.19	0	0.15	-0.95	14	5
Stampede Pass	29	57	42	0	0	-1	0	0	0.16	-1.03	2	1.51	-4.00	27	10
Wenatchee	32	75	54	2	41	15	7	4	0.00	-0.07	0	0.39	-0.14	74	6
Yakima AP	23	77	51	-2	26	6	5	5	0.00	-0.07	0	0.10	-0.43	19	2
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	19	79	49	3	23	14	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.47	-1.05	31	4
Deer Park	15	70	44	-6	3	-8	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.59	-0.63	48	10
Spokane AP	19	70	47	-4	7	-6	0	0	0.00	-0.18	0	0.78	-0.25	76	9
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	27	76	53	-2	36	8	6	2	0.00	-0.07	0	0.10	-0.39	20	2
Moses Lake	27	76	51	-4	29	1	3	-1	0.00	-0.07	0	0.08	-0.41	16	2
Quincy	28	77	55	3	48	26	9	8	0.00	-0.07	0	0.12	-0.44	21	3
Ritzville	25	72	50	-3	22	5	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.24	-0.58	29	4
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	27	79	56	-3	54	5	15	6	0.00	-0.07	0	0.11	-0.37	23	2
Pasco	24	78	52	-4	33	-3	0	-4	0.00	-0.08	0	0.07	-0.43	14	2
Pullman	19	67	46	-5	3	-14	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	0.58	-0.89	39	7
Whitman Mission	21	76	51	-2	30	7	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.38	-0.66	37	5
<b>IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	20	70	48	-5	21	1	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.19	-0.52	70	6
Lewiston ID	31	74	54	-1	38	3	1	-3	0.01	-0.20	1	0.65	-0.49	57	9

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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